

The Veterans Voice

WINTER 2006



Then and Now

by Lisa-Marie Mulkern

At least twice a year, usually around Veterans Day and Memorial Day, the phones become unusually busy with reporters making inquiries about whether or not a certain type of veteran resides here at the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Such inquiries are frequently made on the basis of a certain story that the reporter is working on such as a specific battle or a particular type of combat. I am always happy to assist in such efforts and appreciate the opportunity to tell our Residents' stories to a wider audience.

In between these inquiries and in the interest of building a sense of community and awareness about our veterans, I enjoy meeting and speaking with our Residents and their families. Who *really* lives here? Where and when did they serve? In addition to having served our country, what else is it about our veterans that makes them unique? What are their hobbies, interests and dreams? Did they raise a family?

Such are the questions that came to mind recently as I spoke with Sherry Brooks and her father Larry, a World War II veteran and a member of our family here in Tilton. Like most members of his generation, Larry prefers to concentrate his discussions about World War II on the positive memories of the lasting friendships that were formed and of the lighter moments that were occasionally shared by members of the crew aboard the USS Hamilton.



Resident Larry Draper, World War II Veteran, earned nine battle stars while serving aboard the USS Hamilton (DD141/DMS 18) from 1942-1945. Of four destroyer minesweepers that traveled together - Hovey, Long, Palmer and Hamilton - only the Hamilton survived the war.

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Members of the USS Hamilton began organizing annual reunions back in 1985, and Larry has enjoyed the opportunity to attend a majority of them ever since. The veterans reminisce about their experiences and exchange updates about their family life.

Larry and his fellow veterans still relish the opportunity to poke fun at one of their fellow shipmates who was sound asleep during a period of rolling seas when a bushel of shells spilled and crashed loudly on the steel bench beside him. Startled by the load noise and not realizing that his leg had also fallen asleep, the sailor mistakenly assumed the ship was under attack and that the feeling of numbness in his leg meant that he had been hit. More than sixty years later, Larry and other reunion attendees still laugh when they recall the scene of a sailor with his leg asleep crawling along the deck shouting, "I'm hit, "I'm hit."



After World War II, Larry returned to New Hampshire to raise a family and begin a career. Pictured above clockwise from top right are Sherry, Gary, Susan, Sylvia and Star.



Mr. Draper frequently takes to the floor during NHVH dances that are held throughout the year. Larry enjoyed dancing with recreation staff member Linda Tucci during the 60th Anniversary celebration of Victory in Europe Day in May 2005.

Larry proudly recalls having had the opportunity to witness the flag raising on Iwo Jima, the last of nine battles in which he participated before finally returning home to his wife in New Hampshire. Mr. Draper enjoyed a variety of jobs ranging from store manager to truck driver and even served for a time as editor of the Tilton Sentinel. Despite the demands of raising five children, Larry still found time to serve in a variety of volunteer positions at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tilton. He retired from Pike Industries at the age of 72.

Mr. Draper is very proud of his five children, fourteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. He enjoys visiting with his family and is very active in a number of NHVH programs such as reminisce group, "Move it or Lose" exercise classes and a variety of recreational outings.

We truly appreciate Mr. Draper's service to our country and are proud to have him as a member of the New Hampshire Veterans Home family.

A Preview of Upcoming Events

There are numerous opportunities for you to become involved as we honor our veterans, celebrate the holidays, and participate in recreational activities. The following dates are subject to change, so please call ahead if you plan to attend one of the following events or if you or your organization would like to become involved in sponsoring an event or outing. Family members are encouraged to check their monthly events calendars for a more complete listing of activities.

March

Join us on Friday, March 17, 2006 for our St. Patrick's Day Special Coffee Social at 10:15 a.m. followed by our Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in the afternoon.

April

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the New Hampshire Veterans Home on Saturday, April 8, 2006 for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt that is sponsored by the NHVH Inter-generational program. We will be honoring our volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week - April 23rd through April 29th.

May

A variety of celebrations will be taking place during National Nursing Home Week (May 14-May 20, 2006). Our Spring Fling Dance is scheduled for the afternoon of May 17, 2006 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please join us as we honor our veterans of the past and present during the traditional New Hampshire Veterans Home Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 29, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

June

Save the Date - Saturday, June 10, 2006 for the Third Annual Motorcycle Poker Run. All proceeds will be contributed to the NHVH Benefit Fund. Registration at 8:00 a.m. at NHVH.

Welcome to Our Home

The Board of Managers, Commandant Barry E. Conway, Resident Council Officers and fellow residents and staff members extend a warm welcome our new Residents who joined us at the New Hampshire Veterans Home as of the dates indicated.

Howard Bates	10/04/05	William Bradshaw	11/15/05
Howard Walden	10/06/05	Robert Taylor	11/22/05
George Williams	10/10/05	Roland Korb	11/30/05
Manuel Silva	10/11/05	Edward Runis	12/06/05
Santiago Fernandez	10/18/05	Kenneth Schuhle	12/15/05
LeRoy Fisher	11/01/05	Donald Kuethe	12/20/05
		Frank Kelly	12/29/05

Employee Update

Welcome to our New Employees who have joined us during the period from October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

Employee Name	Position	Date of Hire
Cassandra Smith	Laundry Worker I	10/01/05
Melissa Ivers	LNA I	10/07/05
Kimberly Ball	Health Facilities Cleaner II	10/14/05
Tammy Perry	LNA I	10/21/05
Nicholas Bilodeau	Food Service Worker II	10/21/05
Jacqueline Flanders	LNA II	10/28/05
Alfreda Lewis	LPN	10/28/05
Robert LaPlante	Food Service Worker II	10/28/05
Dawn Ordway	LNA II	11/10/05
Louise Rosand	LNA I	11/18/05
Donald Giguere	LNA I	11/18/05
Jenny Hornijas	RN II	11/18/05
Kassie Beaudet	Food Service Worker II	12/02/05
Robert Monahan	LPN	12/09/05
Ashlee Saint John	LNA Trainee	12/09/05
Darlene McDaniels	LNA Trainee	12/09/05
Nancy Guyotte	LPN	12/09/05
William Vandell	Food Service Worker II	12/09/05
Nancy McCormack	LNA II	12/09/05
Nadiege Lominy	LNA II	12/09/05
Margaret Labrecque	Business Administrator III	12/23/05
Melinda Noel	LNA II	12/23/05

Congratulations to our Employees who received promotions during the period from October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

Employee Name	Position	Date of Promotion
Johanna Robinson	Laundry Worker III	10/07/05
Angelique Mosher	Recreation Therapist I	10/14/05
Louise Tobin	Health Facilities Cleaner II	10/28/05
Kathleen Paquette	Cook II	10/28/05
Mary Beaudin	Program Assistant II	11/04/05
Robert Keller	Stock Clerk II	11/25/05
Judith Brown	Recreation Therapist Assistant II	12/23/05
Ryan Jones	Grounds person	12/30/05

Employees Recognized for Reaching Years of Service Milestones

New Hampshire Veterans Home employees were recognized recently for reaching years of service milestones. Employees received certificates signed by Governor John Lynch as well as anniversary pins indicating the number of years that they have dedicated to serving the Granite State.

We congratulate the following employees:

40 Years of Service
Ed Colby

25 Years of Service
Darlene Smith

20 Years of Service
Eva Faris
Mary Fish
Frank Gilbert
Gayle Gordon
Brenda Mottram
Paul Norris
Terri Stebbins
Donna Thompson
Donna Wheeler



Ed Colby (center), Resident Benefit Liaison, recently celebrated his 40th anniversary of employment with the State of New Hampshire. Human resources staff member Mindy Normand and Commandant Barry Conway congratulated Ed on his achievement.

15 Years of Service
Michelle Bean
Beth Benz
Barry Conway
Lynn Dufield
June Gilbert
Carolyn McLeod
Lisa Perry



Mary Fish (center), who retired in December 2005, was recognized for her 20 years of service to the New Hampshire Veterans Home during a special coffee social that was held in her honor. Pictured with Mary are Anne Howe, Director of Resident Care Services and Commandant Barry Conway.

10 Years of Service
Ellen Douville
Dolly Keyser
Chuck Lewis
Mindy Normand
Mary Schweitzer
Kathy Tilton
Phyllis Tower

Railroad Trains

My Great Grandfather invented a very ingenious railroad switch.
That same very wonderful switch is still in use today.
The invention so useful to railroads never made him rich.
But I am sure satisfaction was his for life in every way.

My Grandfather was Yard Master in the Boston Freight Yard.
One of his hobbies was sulky races and minstrel shows.
He played the ivory bones, interlocutor, real funny and hard.
A true railroad man as all of his long posterity knows.

Railroad trains, how fascinating they are to see and to ride.
Their history from the beginning to the present day.
Combines the strength and ingenuity of men with great pride,
As they laid the tracks from east to west full sway.

World War Two came and trains were essential as troop carriers,
Equipment moving, and invaluable in every useful means.
Without those trains much of what was moved meant a barrier
To any possibility of our nation to move so much it seems.

They steamed their way over mountains, bridges and runnels
Constructed from sweat on the backs of men in hard labor.
Summer, winter, day after day, week after week, building tunnels.
Through ice, snow, and rain, and foremen of every flavor.

The troop trains of WWII were really something in those days.
For heat they had a pot bellied stove covering all with soot.
People anywhere near them got black in many and various ways.
Hands and face, body and clothes, from head to foot.

Often not a place to sit or to sleep at night, standing room only.
From Massachusetts to Chicago and then to the far west.
Clickaty, clack, clickaty clack went the wheels, sounding lonely.
Arriving at our destination, tired and dusty, longing to rest.

The dining car or club car were luxurious, so very clean and neat.
Such a pleasure to linger while looking out at the stars or
To enjoy scenery along the way as we were served food to eat.
An opportunity to sit and rest, and reluctantly, out the door.



Charles Safford WWII
service photo.

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Then there were the snow trains plowing to the lofty ski slopes.
The skiers, anticipating, anxiously, their joyous times,
As the train slowly pushed the snow from the tracks as it coped
With hills and valleys, moaning and groaning as it climbed.

There are but a very few trains that exist in these modern travels,
For they are fast, state of the art, and wonders to behold.
In other countries who use air rather than tracks as they unravel
Mile after mile of comfort and pleasure, and like a
Treasure, joyfully, they unfold.

Written by: Charles R. Safford, WWII Veteran and President of the New Hampshire Veterans Home Resident Council

Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly Resident Council Meetings that are held on the Third Thursday of each month in the Tarr Dining Room at 2:00 p.m.

If you have a question or would like to add an item to a Resident Council meeting agenda, you may contact one of the following officers:

Charles Safford, President
Forrest Foley, Vice President
Merrill Franklin, Chaplain
Sam MacKenzie, Secretary
Larry Draper, Sergeant-at-Arms

New Hampshire Veterans Home—Board of Managers

Donald R. Caron, (Veterans of Foreign Wars)
Wanda Furbish, (Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary)
Richard L. Murphy, (Marine Corps League - Commandant)
Junious Owens, (Disabled American Veterans)
Anthony J. Romano, Jr., (Marine Corps League)
Charles Smith, (American Legion - Department Commander)
Robert Wayss, (Disabled American Veterans - Department Commander)
Robert Wyman, (American Legion)
Rick Young, (Veterans of Foreign Wars - Department Commander)

Thank you for your dedicated support!

“Vetmobile” Gets a \$10,000 Boost - Support Still Needed!

As the end of winter draws near, Residents and Staff remain hopeful that we will be enjoying the comfort of riding in new wheelchair vans to our spring and summer activities. We are nearly 1/3 of the way towards our goal of raising \$60,000.

“We received several generous donations towards project “Vetmobile” during the holiday season. Our campaign received a significant boost thanks to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pepper who contributed \$10,000 to the project,” reported Lisa-Marie Mulkern, Public Affairs and Development Director.

NHVVH plans to conclude its “Vetmobile” campaign in May 2006 and begin making plans for larger and more frequent recreational outings for its growing population of veterans. Residents are encouraged to attend outings throughout the Granite State. In addition to shopping trips and sightseeing tours, Residents also enjoy the opportunity to travel for lunch and dinner outings and to see baseball and hockey games in Manchester.



We welcome your support in our campaign to purchase new wheelchair vans! Please specify “Vetmobile” in your correspondence. All donations are welcome and will be acknowledged.

Donations to the NHVVH Benefit Fund are accepted by mail or in person at 139 Winter Street, Tilton, NH 03276 or online at our website - www.nh.gov/veterans



Commandant Barry Conway accepted a \$10,000 donation towards the “Vetmobile” campaign. Resident Larry Draper presented the donation on behalf of his son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pepper, who were pleased to support NHVVH in its efforts to raise \$60,000 for the purchase of two new wheelchair vans to be used for transporting veterans to recreational outings.

“We have a growing population of Fisher Cats baseball fans as well as a number of additional Residents who would welcome a return trip to Fenway Park this summer. NHVVH would like to accommodate all Residents who wish to attend recreational events and to ensure that they are riding safely and comfortably,” Mulkern explained.



\$60,000

Project “Vetmobile”

Life Enhancement Dementia Unit Family Support Group

The New Hampshire Veterans Home is pleased to announce the creation of a new program and activities that will further assist our Residents and their families while also honoring our commitment to providing meaningful quality of life care to our veterans.

Kimberly Michaud and Nancy Dutile, Social Workers on the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit ("LEDU"), cordially invite family members and friends of veterans who reside on LEDU to a Family Support Group that will be meeting monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the LEDU-1 Conference Room.

The support group is designed to meet both the educational and the emotional needs of family members who are caring for loved ones

who are suffering from dementia.

Family members of LEDU Residents should have already received invitations to the first meeting on February 22, 2006 and are encouraged to bring additional family and friends. For additional information about the LEDU Family Support Group, please call either Kimberly or Nancy at 527-4400.

Send us your story ideas and photos

The Veterans Voice wants to hear your voice! We welcome suggestions on future content from Residents, family, friends and supporters.

Should you have a suggestion for a story or if you would like to submit a photo for publication, we would be happy to consider your ideas for an upcoming issue. Please forward your suggestions directly either by mail to Attn: Veterans Voice Editor, New Hampshire Veterans Home, 139 Winter Street, Tilton, NH 03276 or by e-mail to lisa-marie.mulkern@nhvh.nh.gov.

We are especially glad to receive photos depicting our Residents involved in activities at the Home or taking part in a supporter-sponsored outing. If you are submitting a photo for publication, please include the date as well as a caption that identifies people from left to right.

We are also interested in hearing from family members who would like to feature their loved ones in a "Then and Now" column in future editions of the Veterans Voice. If your loved one is a Resident at NHVH and you would like to share photos and stories of his or her past, please contact us Lisa-Marie Mulkern at (603) 527-4400. We would love to speak with you, and we can scan original photos while you wait!

In Loving Memory

The New Hampshire Veterans Home extends its deepest condolences to the loved ones of the following Residents who recently passed away. We are grateful for their service to this country and for the time that they spent with the NHVH family. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Name	Joined NHVH	Departed
Bertha Lane	9/08/82	10/03/05
Charles Converse	3/21/05	10/23/05
John Cooper	7/06/05	10/30/05
Ruth Rimmer	7/26/04	10/31/05
Harold Hobbs	10/01/98	11/01/05
Phyllis Emerson	4/27/05	12/03/05
George Stanley	8/19/04	12/09/05
Lyman Cole	11/03/05	12/15/05
Leslie Maurice	12/12/01	12/21/05
Thomas Kenney	4/18/02	12/30/05
George Morse	12/13/04	12/31/05

Memorials and Tributes

New Hampshire Veterans Home Benefit Fund would like to acknowledge the following Memorial and Tribute donations that were received between October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

In addition to the following tributes, we also received a donation from Mr. Robert Aronson with a request that his acknowledgment read as follows:

“In honor and in memory of the World War II veterans who fought bravely in the European and Pacific theaters to keep the world free. A special thank you from all the Jewish people in the world for liberating the death camps and fighting to save the world’s remaining Jewish people.”

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In Memory of

Pericles Anastos	Robert A. Brison	Roger E. Chagnon
Peter Charland	Edith Clock	Charles Craven
Arthur J. Conlon	Fletcher Dewolf	Thomas S. French, M.D.
Neal Anthony Humiston	Albert Lettre	Col. Eli Marcoux
Francis M. Monahan	Tom Murphy	Paul Richards
Paul J. Rivard	Dr. George B. Rogers	Stanley Searles
Robert Stanton	Bernard A. Tarrant	Sgt. William J. Tracy, Jr.
Mildred Warren	Donald Webber	

In Honor of

Joseph Acton	Fred Campbell	Bruce Fred
Gary Fred	Angelo Girolimon	Paul MacDonald
Ted Richard	John Rider	Fred Silvestri
	Roscoe Tewksbury	

Contributions to the NHVH Benefit Fund enrich the daily lives of our veterans through a variety of activities, entertainment, outings and equipment. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of a family member or a friend, we will send a letter to that person or friend acknowledging your thoughtful contribution. We will also acknowledge your contribution in *The Veterans Voice*.

Donations may be made payable to "NHVH Benefit Fund" and mailed to New Hampshire Veterans Home, Development Office, 139 Winter Street, Tilton, New Hampshire 03276, or you may complete and return the enclosed envelope. **You may also donate online at our website www.nh.gov/veterans**

Donors may also include the New Hampshire Veterans Home Benefit Fund in their wills. You can make a gift of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or the residual of your estate.

For additional information about planned giving opportunities, please contact the Development Office at 603-527-4400.

Faces and Places



Several members of the Department of New Hampshire VFW Ladies Auxiliary attended the Veterans Joint Holiday Party. Pictured from left are Donna Knapper, Department President; Beth Castricone, Department Sr. Vice; and Jackie Nevin, Department Jr. Vice.



Recreation staff member Judy Brown takes Residents back in time to the 1950s with her poodle skirt and malt shoppe theme. Resident Gary Fred enjoyed the opportunity to dance to some jukebox tunes.



Resident Warren Wilson and Carol Sibulkin take to the dance floor at the New Year's Eve Party.

"I just love to see the smiles on the Residents' faces. That is what working here is all about."

- Judy Brown, Recreation Therapy Assistant

Memorial Flag Case Project Making a Difference

This time last year, recreation staff member Chuck Lewis had a plan to involve the Residents in a woodworking project. Chuck wanted the project to provide recreational benefit to the Residents and to have a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans and their families.

After conducting research into areas that Chuck believed were currently underserved in the New Hampshire Veterans Home community, he and a group of Residents collectively decided that they would like to make handcrafted memorial flag cases to present to the families of former Residents.

Less than one year into the project, Chuck and the Residents have created and delivered over twenty-five cases to the family members of veterans who formerly resided at the New Hampshire Veterans Home. The cases are presented at no cost to the family members who have reported that they valued the thoughtfulness and caring that went into the gifts.

“I was truly touched by the gesture,” reported the daughter of a former Resident. “I really appreciated having a special place to display my father’s flag”, she explained.

The cost of the project’s materials is supported through donations. If you would like to make a contribution towards our efforts, you may a donation made payable to “NHVH Benefit Fund” and mailed to New Hampshire Veterans Home, 139 Winter Street, Tilton, NH 03276.

“I was truly touched by the gesture. I really appreciated having a special place to display my father’s flag.”



Residents Joel Stephens (front) and Ken Main enjoy working on the NHVH Memorial Flag Case project. Chuck Lewis, a member of the recreation staff, oversees the project that has already created and delivered over twenty-five cases to the family members of former NHVH Residents.



Staff member Jeanne Adams assists Residents with the assembly and staining of the memorial flag cases. Pictured from left are David Whitney, Forrest Foley and Armand Tremblay

More Faces and Places



Therapy dogs Luka (left) and Nanda Devi visit weekly with the veterans. Resident Germaine Monday especially enjoys seeing our canine volunteers and conversing with their owner NHVH Volunteer Mina Ayers.



June Clark, a Member of the Country Village Quilters Guild, presents a handmade patriotic quilt to Resident William Cundy. Members of the guild are on a mission to provide a patriotic quilt for every Resident bed.



Volunteer Duke Dawalga, Santa's deputy, delivered holiday packages to Resident Manuel Silva and to all of our veterans at NHVH.

“On behalf of myself and all of the other veterans here, I wish to thank you (all of our sponsors from throughout the Granite State) for all of the wonderful presents that we have received...”

- Resident Merrill Franklin

Holidays and Celebrations



Resident Phil Walton and Cheryl Woundy, RN enjoy a dance during the New Year's Eve celebration at the New Hampshire Veterans Home.



Residents celebrated the holiday season and enjoyed entertainment and refreshments during the Veterans Joint Holiday Party that was sponsored by members of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. Pictured from left are Robert Paden, Elizabeth Nason and Santiago Fernandez.



Major Raymond R. Valas, NHARNG speaks with NHVH Volunteer and World War II veteran George Sheldon, CWO-4 (Ret.). Major Valas was the featured speaker during the NHVH Veterans Day ceremony. Residents, staff and visitors enjoyed Major Valas' presentation which included stories and photographs about his recent deployment to Iraq.

New Hampshire Veterans Home
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH 03276

Phone: 603-527-4400
Fax: 603-527-4402

Barry E. Conway, Commandant



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.NH.GOV/VETERANS

Share the News

Please do not discard this newsletter.

Please leave this copy of *The Veterans Voice* at your doctor's office, gym, lunch room or coffee shop.

To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

About the Home

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. Today, the modern facility is home to men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

NHVVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietetic and social services.

Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment and various community outings support residents'

quality of life. NHVVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy. Dedicated staff members work in partnership with volunteers from surrounding communities and numerous service organizations to enrich our residents' lives.

NHVVH recently opened the 100-person Life Enhancement Dementia Unit that serves the needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. The facility addition enables NHVVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents.

Additional information is available online at our website: www.nh.gov/veterans

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